#### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

#### HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P	.G. #86B-10 Building Date: <u>ca. 1856</u>	_
Building Name	Black Walnut Thicket (Brooke-Baden House)	
Location: <u>1</u>	5508 Letcher Road East, Brandywine, Maryland	

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

#### Description:

The Brooke-Baden house at Black Walnut Thicket is a three-part frame building which consists of a two-and-one-half-story main block, a separate one-and-one-half-story kitchen building, and a slightly lower hyphen which joins them together. It is situated at the top of a hill above a branch of Rock Creek, north of Baden-Naylor Road. The main block is a roughly square gable roofed structure, with entrance in the first bay of the three-bay main south facade through a door with transom and sidelights. The door has a handsome surround: pilasters supporting crown molding and frieze. A one-story porch with Tuscan columns shelters the east gable end. The cornices of the main block are boxed and returned at the east and west gable ends, forming pediments which are sided with rectangular shingles. Other siding is plain weatherboard. Most windows are 6/6 double hung sash. Interior plan of the main block is stairhall on the west and two parlors on the east. There is a small basement space, under the stairhall, from which can be observed the hand-hewn sill joists. A short distance north of the main block stands a yable-roofed kitchen building, attached to the main block by a connecting hyphen. Entrance is in the central bay of the threebay east facade. There is a basement under the southern two-thirds of this building. The connecting hyphen is a slightly lower one-and-one-half-story gable roofed structure; its boxed cornice has a deep overhang. Like the other two sections, the hyphen rests on a high brick foundation.

#### Significance:

The house at Black Walnut Thicket is a good example of a mid-nineteenth century plantation house which has undergone change and expansion. The main block of the house was built by Robert W.G. Baden circa 1856. It was part of a large tract, Black Walnut Thicket, which had been the plantation in the late eighteenth century of Dr. Oswald Brooke. Baden's house was a fine example of antebellum plantation house, with side hall and double parlors heated by two large exterior chimneys with a brick pent between them. The kitchen was probably constructed at the same time as the main block, and was soon afterwards connected to the main block by a one-story passageway. After Baden's death in 1882, the plantation was divided among his heirs. The house and immediate grounds became the home of Elizabeth Baden Turner. In the early 1930's, the chimneys were removed and replaced, and the fenestration of the east facade was altered; the third story was rebuilt, original dormers removed, shingles added to the pedimented third level gable ends, and a one-story porch built on south and east facades. The kitchen building has recently been converted into living space. At the present time, work is being undertaken on the entire building.

Acreage: 34.94 acres

## Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

Magi No.

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1. Nam	e (indicate pre	eferred name)		
historic	Black Walnut Thick	ket		
and/or common	Brooke-Baden Hou	ıse		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	15508 Letcher Road	d East		not for publication
city, town	Brandywine	vicinity of	congressional district	4
state	Maryland	county	Prince George's	
3. Clas	sification			
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered X not applicable	Status  X occupied  unoccupied  work in progress Accessible  yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted X no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	ty (give names ar	nd mailing addresse	es of <u>all</u> owners)
name Robin	& Frelenda Butler			
street & number	P.O. Box 360		telephone n	843-3344
city, town	Waldorf,	state	and zip code MD.	20601
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	on	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc.	ce George's County	Courthouse	5552 liber
street & number	Main Street			734 folio
city, town	Upper Marlboro,		state	MD. 20772
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	<i>r</i> eys
titie Princ	ce George's County I	nventory of Histori	c Sites	
date 1974	<b>l</b>		federai sta	te X county ioc
∠epository for s	urvey records History	Division, M-NCPPC		
city, town	Riverdale,	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	state	MD. 20737
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## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #86B-10

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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Brooke-Baden house at Black Walnut Thicket is a three-part frame building which consists of a two-and-one-half-story main block, a separate one-and-one-half-story kitchen building, and a slightly lower hyphen which joins them together. It is situated at the top of a hill above a branch of Rock Creek, and is accessible by an unpaved lane north of Baden-Naylor Road. The main block is a roughly square gable roofed structure, with entrance in the first bay of the three-bay main south facade. The four-panel door has single-pane transom and three-pane sidelights, with molded panels underneath. The door has a handsome surround; there are two molded pilasters separating the door from the sidelights, and two broader pilasters which frame the whole entrance complex. The pilasters support crown molding and frieze. A one-story porch once spanned this south facade and wrapped around to shelter the east gable end as well. This porch has been removed from the south facade, but still stands at the east; it has Tuscan columns, boxed cornice and overhanging eaves, and rests on brick piers. (The east gable end which it shelters once had two exterior chimneys, and the south facade had a two-story porch. During this century, the two stacks were removed from the east gable end, and the two-story porch from the south facade; a new Tuscan porch was added on the south and east facades. The east gable end now has five irregular bays, with entrance in the fourth.)

The cornices are boxed and returned at the east and west gable ends, forming pediments which are sided with rectangular shingles. There are two 6/6 double hung sash windows in each pedimented gable end. The main block is sided with plain weatherboard, with wider boards on the second story than on the first. Most windows are 6/6 double hung sash (although the first and third on the east gable end are long 2/2) and have molded surrounds. On the second story of the south and east facades, the 6/6 sashes are grouped in two pairs. The roof is of standing seam metal over asphalt strip. Two replacement chimney stacks rise from this roof: one rises from the ridge between second and third bays, the other at the north edge of the north plane of the roof.

Interior plan of the main block is stairhall on the west and two parlors on the east. The principal entrance on the south facade leads into a side hall with a handsome staircase against the west wall. The staircase has a heavy turned Greek Revival style newel, and plain balusters. Door

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–		Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — agriculture — X architecture — art — commerce — communications					law literature military music philosophy			re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater	
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Significance

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Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The house at Black Walnut Thicket is a good example of a mid-nine-teenth century plantation house which has undergone change and expansion. The main block of the house was built by Robert W.G. Baden circa 1856 after he acquired the land at trustee's sale out of the estate of Michael B. Carroll. It was part of a large tract known as Black Walnut Thicket which had been the plantation in the late eighteenth century of Dr. Oswald Brooke. R.W.G. Baden's house was a fine example of antebellum plantation house, a two-and-one-half-story frame house with side hall and double parlors, heated by two large exterior chimneys with a brick pent between them. Each of the six rooms (on three levels) was heated by a fireplace served by these two chimneys. Decorative trim of the house is bold Greek Revival style, and the formal entrance on the south facade is particularly fine.

The north kitchen building was probably constructed at approximately the same time that Baden constructed the main block, and was soon afterwards connected to the main block by a one-story passageway. In this sprawling complex, R.W.G. Baden raised his family of eight children, and after his death in 1882, the plantation was divided among his heirs. The house and immediate grounds were allotted to two of his daughters, and it was Elizabeth Baden Turner who subsequently made it her home. 2 In the early 1930's, the chimneys were in deteriorating condition, and it was decided to remove them. They were replaced by an interior chimney between the two parlors, and the fenestration of the east facade was completely altered. At the same time, the third story was rebuilt, original dormers removed, shingles added to the pedimented third level gable ends, and a one-story porch built on south and east facades. 3 Soon afterwards, the connecting passage was widened (probably en enclosing a porch on the east) and its roof was rebuilt to match the renovated main block. In the 1950's, during the ownership of the Theobald family, the new chimney was constructed in the kitchen building, and in recent years that entire north building has been converted into living space. At the present time, work is being undertaken on the entire building.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #86B-10

cf. Chain of Title
cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geog	raphical Data		
Quadrangle name	Property 34.94 acres, TM Brandywine, Section F NOT complete UTM reference	G	luadrangle scale
A Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
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	escription and justification		
state	counties for properties overlapp code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. Form	Prepared By		
name/title Susan 6	. Pearl, Research Historia	ın	
organization His	toric Preservation Commiss	sion date Ju	ne 1985
street & number	/o Co. Planning Division,	M-NCPPC telephone	952-3521
	Administration Building, per Marlboro,	Room 4010 state MD.	20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

#### #7. Continued

and window surrounds have cyma reversa outer moldings and panels underneath the windows. The new openings which have replaced the chimneys have molded surrounds similar but not identical to those of the original windows. A central chimney now serves a modern brick fireplace on the rear wall of the front parlor. In the attic are stored four wooden mantels from the original fireplaces. They have bulls-eye moldings on the sides, and a plain central frieze. There is a small basement space, dug out under the stairhall, from which can be observed the massive hand-hewn joists which form the sill. The main block rests on a high brick foundation topped by one course of rowlock; there is brick nogging above the sill.

The third story of the main block was once lighted by four dormer windows; these dormers were removed and the roof structure was rebuilt at the time of the removal of the chimneys. Evidence of the dormer windows can still be seen from inside the attic.

A short distance north of the main block stands a small gable-roofed kitchen building, with roof ridge at right angles to that of the main block, and attached to the main block by a connecting hyphen. This small building is one-and-one-half-stories high, 17 feet by 30 feet, with entrance in the central bay of the three-bay east facade. There is a basement under the southern two-thirds of this building. The building rests on a high brick foundation. There is an interior chimney at the north gable end, and a rebuilt chimney east of the ridge near the south gable end; the roof is of corrugated metal. The hand-split board siding of the kitchen building has been replaced or reinforced in some locations by circular-sawn boards. The cornice is boxed and has a crown molding. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash, and there are two small windows at loft level in the north gable end.

The connecting hyphen is a slightly lower one-and-one-half-story gable roofed structure, with roof ridge parallel to that of the north building but not on the same line, i.e., the hyphen is offset slightly to the east. Like the main block, it is sided with plain weatherboard, and has 6/6 double hung sash windows with molded surrounds. The cornice of this hyphen is boxed, with crown molding, and returned at the north gable end where it is offset from the north building. The cornice has a deep overhang on the east facade; on the west, the cornice matches that of the kitchen. The hyphen is three bays wide on its east facade, with entrance in the central bay; on the west it is a more widely spaced two bays wide, with entrance in the second bay. The roof of this section has been rebuilt, probably at the time that the chimneys of the main block were removed, and is now covered with asphalt shingle. Like the other two sections, the hyphen rests on a high brick foundation.

There is a barn to the northwest of the house, presently in use as a workshop.

#### #8. Continued

#### Notes

- of. Chain of Title, 1798 Federal Direct Tax, P.G. County, Washington Hundred; Administration files, 1810 Docket for Oswald Brooke; P.G. County Will T #1:443; 1798 Federal Direct Tax for P.G. County, Washington Hundred.
- P.G. County Deeds JWB #6:214; #106:49.
- Interview with Baden family descendant.

### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

# NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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	}-	AND/OR HISTORIC:						
	-		G. Baden H	louse				
ſ	2. I	LOCATION	<u> </u>					
£	<del>-                                    </del>	STREET AND NUMBER:						
			r Road					
		CITY OR TOWN: Baden						
		Maryland Prince George's						
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The house is a two-story, frame building with a three-bay, main (south) facade. The doorway in the west bay has transom and side lights. Pilasters separate the door from the lights and support a moulded cornice. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. On the second floor and gable ends, the fenestration has been altered. A colonial revival porch extends across the front and east end. The gable ends have been shingled.

On the north end there are two 1-1/2 story wings, the more northerly with internal chimneys on either end. It has 6/6 double hung sash windows, with a 4/2 double hung sash in the gable end. The three bay facade has a central doorway and flanking windows. It has a boxed cornice with base and crown moulding.

Several outbuildings are framed. A well house has a projecting gable end; it is clapboard sheathed. A smokehouse, also clapboarded, has a steeply-pitched roof.

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#### Chain of Title

## Black Walnut Thicket P.G. #86B-10

#5552:734 6 Jul 1982 Deed	Frederick H. and Ursula McEnroy Theobald to Robin Forrest and Frelanda Mary Butler; 34.936 acres in Nottingham (excepting 1,117 square feet conveyed by #4689:749); same which grantors acquired by #4372:814.
#4372:814 31 May 1974 Deed	Ursula McEnroy Theobald to Frederick H. and Ursula McEnroy Theobald; 34.936 acres in Nottingham District; same which grantor acquired by #4178:700.
#4178:700 June 1971 Deed	Frederick H. and Ursula McEnroy Theobald to Ursula M. Theobald; 34.936 acres in Nottingham District; same which grantors acquired by #1725:376.
#1725:376 4 Apr 1954 Deed	Andrew Grayson and Marie B. Baden to Frederick H. and Ursula McEnroy Theobald; 34.936 acres in Nottingham District as conveyed by T. W. Starbuck on March 20, 1954; same which grantors acquired by #277:312.
#277:312 9 Oct 1926 Deed	Elizabeth D. Turner, widow, to Andrew Grayson Baden; 59.69 acres in Nottingham District known as Black Walnut Thicket, being Lot #5 in the division of the real estate of the late R. W. G. Baden, and 12 acres, being Lot #1 of woodland in the same division; same which grantor acquired by #158:81.
#158:81 3 May 1920 Deed	Andrew Grayson Baden to Elizabeth d. and Joseph A. Turner, as tenants by the Entireties; 59.69 acres in Nottingham District, Lot #5, and 12 acres, Lot #1 of woodland; same property described in a deed recorded immediately prior hereto.
#158:80 3 May 1920 Deed	Elizabeth D. and Joseph A. Turner to Andrew Grayson Baden; 59.69 acres known as Black Walnut Thicket, Lot #5, and 12 acres, Lot #1 of woodland; same grantor acquired by #106:49 and JWB #6:214.
#106:49 7 May 1915 Deed	Margaret M. Baden to Elizabeth D. Turner (formerly Baden); 59.69 acres, Lot #5, and 12 acres, Lot #1 of woodland; all the grantor's undivided half interest as conveyed in JWB#6:214.

JWB #6:214 5 Oct 1885 Deed Margaret C. Baden and her children, heirs of R. W. G. Baden had agreed to appoint three private commissioners to divide among them the real estate of the deceased known as Black Walnut Thicket; by this deed the other heirs conveyed to Margaret M. Baden and Elizabeth D. Baden 59.69 acres, being Lot #5 on the commissioners' plat, plus 12 acres, being Lot #1 of woodland.

FS #2:372 25 Jan 1865 Deed Caleb C. Magruder, trustee under decree in Equity passed November 27, 1856 (George W. Carroll vs. Thomas S. Alexander), to Robert W. G. Baden; 545-1/4 acres, parts of Black Walnut Thicket and Content; same property described in mortgage from Michael B. Carroll to Walter Baker Brooke dated March 17, 1842.

PC #1:509 12 Sept 1853 Will Jane M. Carroll, who died in 1853, devised her farm called Black Walnut Thicket to her nephew, Henry Worthington; if Henry died without issue his legacy went to Henry Brooke, Ida Brooke and Thomas A. Brooke, children of Jane's niece Elizabeth Brooke.

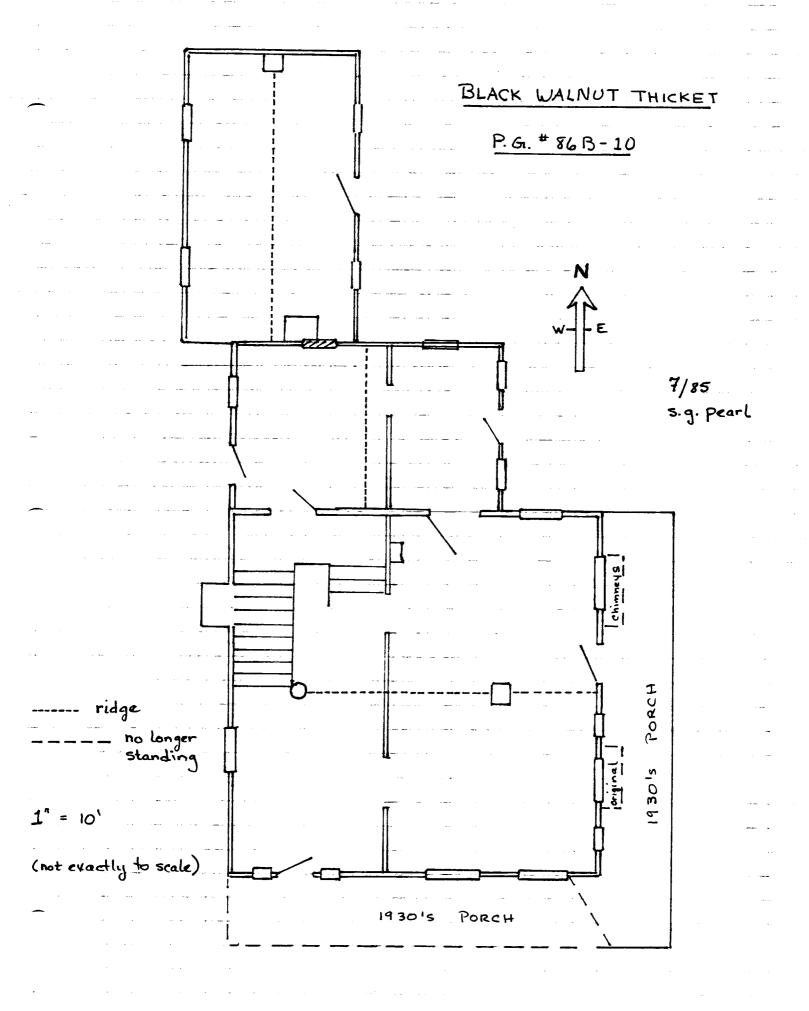
PC #1:470 12 Sept 1952 Michael B. Carroll, who died in 1851, devised his estate, real, personal or mixed, to his wife, Jane M. Carroll.

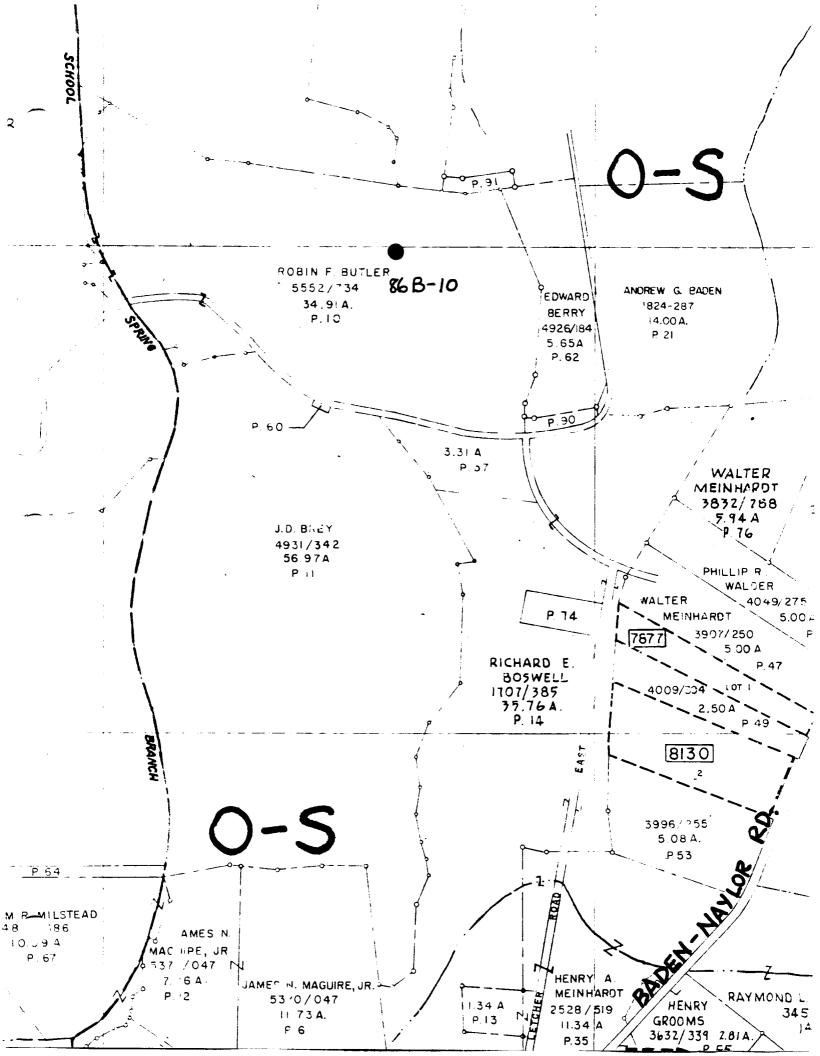
JBB #2:144 17 Mar 1842 Mortgage Michael B. Carroll to Walter Baker Brooke; 618-1/2 acres, parts of Black Walnut Thicket and Content, lying contiguous to each other; to secure debt of \$3,956.79.

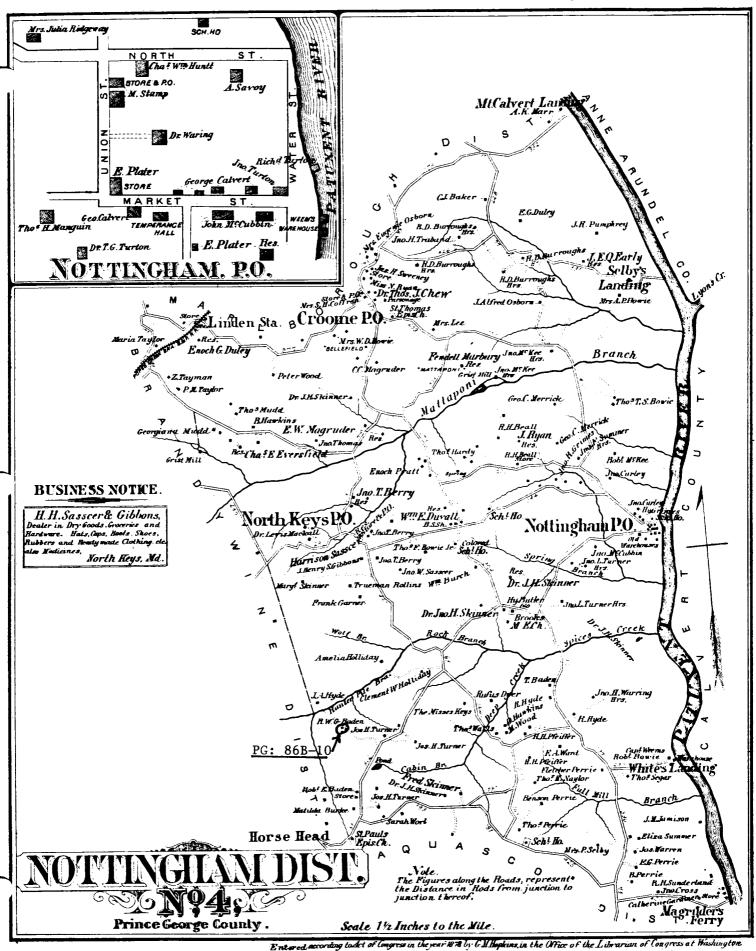
JBB #2:206 29 Jan 1842 Deed For \$15,000, Walter B. Brooke and Alexander and Elizabeth A. Middleton to Michael B. Carroll; 618-1/2 acres, parts of Black Walnut Thicket and Content.

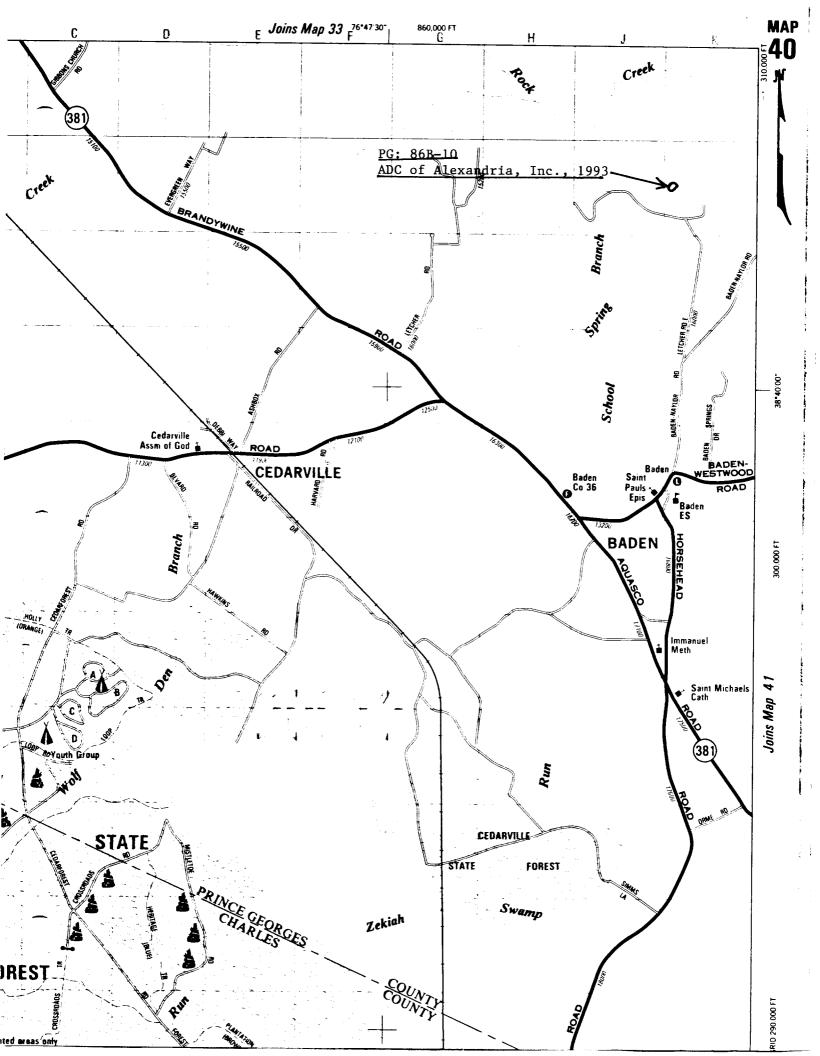
Admin. #1810 1825 Walter Baker Brooke appointed administrator of Leonard Oswald Brooke's estate.

T #1:443 21 Oct 1880 Will Oswala Brooke directed in his will that his lands Black Walnut Thicket and Content were to be equally divided between his two sons, Walter Baker and Leonard Oswald Brooke.











Susan G. Pearl

April 1985

North elevation

Prince George's County, Maryland

Black Walnut Thicket



Black Walnut Thicket

Hyphen from northeast

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

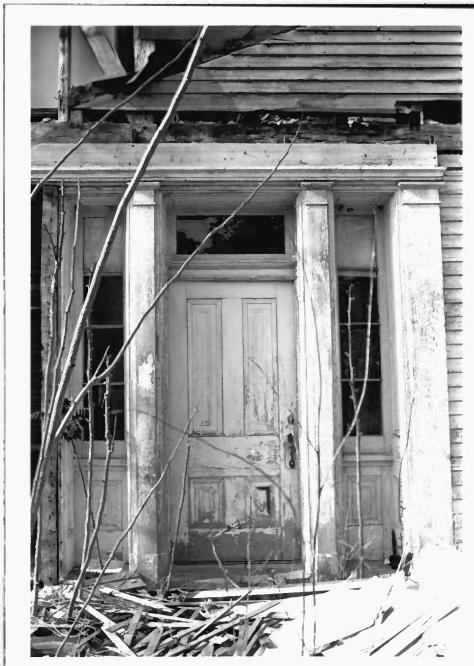
April 1985

Prince George's County, Maryland



#### P.G. #85B-10

Black Walnut Thicket
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
June 1985
Interior, stairhall



Black Walnut Thicket
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
South entrance
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



Black Walnut Thicket
Prince George's County, Maryland
Susan G. Pearl
April 1985
East elevation



Black Walnut Thicket

Susan G. Pearl

West elevation

April 1985

Prince George's County, Maryland



Black Walnut Thicket Prince George's County, MD.

P.G. #86B-10

Susan G. Pearl June 1985 East elevation



Prince George's County, Maryland

April 1985

Black Walnut Thicket

South elevation

Susan G. Pearl



NAME R.W. Q. BADEN HOUSE LOCATION LETCHER RD. EAST, BADEN, MD. FACADE SE PHOTO TAKEN 9/5/74 M. DWYER PG: 86B-10



NAME R.W.G. BADEN HOUSE LOCATION LETCHER Rd EAST BADEN, Md FACADE N. WING - E FACADE PHOTO TAKEN 9/5/74 MDWYER PG: 86 B -10